

Applicants : Athol E. Meder and Jeffrey L. Bell
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Remarks:

The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the Final Office Action mailed December 16, 2003.

Claims 1-14 and 16-49 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 13, 14 and 17 have been amended as set forth above and claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice. The claims as amended are still drawn toward the elected invention. Claims 7-10 and 23-49 have been withdrawn from consideration. The amendments are fully supported by the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 12-14, 16, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Boulter, U.S. Patent No. 5,911,884. Claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boulter, in view of Ford, U.S. Patent No. 5,918,768. Claims 6 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boulter, in view of Sutphen et al., U.S. Patent No. 2,792,920. Claims 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang, U.S. Patent No. 5,565,065, in view of Ford. Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,868,944, in view of Shelton, International Publication No. WO 98/18116.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a) for the reasons set forth below.

The water dispensing unit of the present invention is a free standing water dispensing unit that may be positioned at an office waiting room or lobby or hallway or the like for people to stop and obtain a glass or cup of cool or chilled water for drinking. Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the water dispensing unit comprises a water treatment system operable to receive water from the water supply and to treat the water. The water dispensing unit includes a water cooling device for cooling the treated water. The at

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least one dispensing nozzle dispenses the cooled treated water. The dispensing nozzle is selectively openable and closable by a consumer to dispense a desired amount of cooled treated water to the consumer. The display displays an image or message that is related to the location or environment at which the water dispensing unit is positioned. The image or message is substantially unrelated to the cooled treated water dispensed by the water dispensing unit.

Applicants respectfully submit that Boulter, either alone or in combination with any other references of record, does not disclose, teach or suggest the water dispensing unit of the present invention, particularly as set forth in independent claim 1 and in the claims depending therefrom. Boulter discloses a coin-operated purified water dispensing machine shaped like a kiosk and operable to dispense large volumes of water via nozzles. The kiosk includes signage to instruct the consumer how to operate the coin-operated dispensers. The kiosk is for filling large containers, such as one gallon bottles or five gallon bottles. The kiosk is operable to dispense a particular quantity of water in response to the user pressing one of two start buttons (one for one gallon of water and another for five gallons of water).

Applicants respectfully submit that Boulter does not disclose, teach or suggest the water dispensing unit of the present invention. For example, the dispenser of Boulter does not include a water cooling device for cooling the water. Also, for example, Boulter does not disclose a water dispensing unit that has dispensing nozzles that are selectively openable and closable by a consumer to dispense a desired amount of cooled water to the consumer. To the contrary, the nozzles of Boulter are automatically controlled to dispense a particular amount of water, either one gallon of water or five gallons of water. Also, for example, the signage of the Boulter water dispensing machine is specifically for providing instructions as to how to use the coin-operated dispensing machine. See column 3, lines 8-10 of Boulter. To the contrary, the water dispensing unit of the present invention cools the water and dispenses cooled treated water and displays an image or message that is related to the location or environment at which the water dispensing unit is positioned, such as, for example, a message that promotes the office or lobby or the products or services associated with the office or the practice or business of the office. The image or message is thus substantially unrelated to the

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cooled treated water dispensed by the water dispensing unit of the present invention. Moreover, Applicants submit that Boulter teaches away from the present invention by providing a sign for the particular purpose of providing instructions as to how to operate the coin-operated water dispensing machine. Applicants thus respectfully submit that Boulter, either alone or in combination with any other reference cited, does not disclose, teach or suggest the water dispensing unit of the present invention, particularly as set forth in independent claim 1 and in the claims depending therefrom.

With respect to the rejection of claims 2-5, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Boulter and Ford does not disclose, teach, suggest nor render obvious the water dispensing unit of the present invention. Ford discloses a powdered beverage mixing and dispensing apparatus and not a water dispensing unit. The powdered beverage mixing and dispensing apparatus includes a display that advertises the powdered beverages offered by the apparatus. Ford thus does not disclose or suggest a display that displays an image or message that is related to the location or environment at which the apparatus is positioned and that is substantially not related to the beverage being dispensed by the apparatus. Moreover, Applicants submit that Ford teaches away from the present invention by teaching that the display is specifically for drawing a patron's attention to the apparatus in the interest of enticing selection and purchase of the beverages provided by the apparatus. See column 8, lines 33-37 of Ford. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Boulter and Ford does not disclose, teach or suggest the water dispensing unit of the present invention, particularly as set forth in claims 2-5.

With respect to the rejection of claims 17-20, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Wang and Ford does not disclose, teach or suggest the water dispensing unit of the present invention. Wang discloses a distilled water supply device that includes a heating unit and a condensing unit. Wang does not disclose or suggest providing a water cooling device or a display of any type on the distilled water supply device and, as discussed above, Ford does not disclose a water dispensing unit or a cooling device or a display of the type set forth in claim 1 of the present application. Moreover, with particular reference to the rejection of claim 18, Wang does not disclose a water dispensing unit as claimed therein. For example, Wang does

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not disclose a dispensing unit that has a condensing unit at a first level, a holding tank at a second level below the first level, a dispensing nozzle at a third level below the second level, and a boiling unit at a fourth level below the third level. Thus, Applicants submit that the combination of Wang and Ford does not disclose or suggest or render obvious the water dispensing unit of the present invention, particularly as set forth in claims 17-20.

Moreover, Applicants submit that there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the teachings of Ford with the teachings of Wang and, even if such a combination is made, it does not result in the water dispensing unit of the present invention, particularly as set forth in claims 17-20. Ford discloses a powdered beverage mixing and dispensing apparatus, such as for cappuccino, hot chocolate and/or the like, while Wang discloses a distilled water supply device for dispensing distilled water. There is no suggestion in either reference to apply its teachings to the field of the other reference, nor is there any motivation to do so. The display of Ford is specifically for advertising the products (powdered mixed beverages) dispensed by the powdered beverage mixing and dispensing apparatus of Ford. There would be no motivation to provide such a display to the distilled water supply device of Wang (which has no display of any type) to advertise the water being dispensed by the device. Moreover, even if such an application were made, it still would not disclose, teach, suggest or render obvious the water dispensing unit of the present invention, which treats and cools water and dispenses cooled treated water, and which includes a display that displays an image or message that is substantially unrelated to the cooled treated water dispensed by the water dispensing unit.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references cited of record, either alone or in combination with any other cited reference or references, disclose, teach or suggest the water dispensing unit of the present invention, particularly as set forth in independent claim 1 and in the claims depending therefrom.

Claims 1-14 and 16-49 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 13, 14 and 17 have been amended herein and claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 7-10 and 23-49 have been withdrawn from consideration. Applicants submit that at least claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

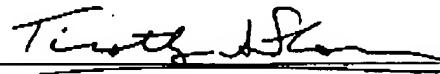
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Respectfully submitted,

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